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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were examined on their merits and claims 25-31 has been added to the application. Claims 10 and 19 have been amended to place the claims into proper dependent form.

Art Rejections

1. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Fujita et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,055,361 ("Fujita") and McCormick et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,706,411 ("McCormick"). Claims 1, 11, 20, 23 and 24 are all independent claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons stated below.

Fujita fails to disclose or suggest at least the underlined limitations of independent claim 1:

print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer,
wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information;

Independent claims 11, 20, 23 and 24 recite similar variations of the above limitations.

A. Fujita fails to disclose, teach or suggest returning a process state of a print job to a predetermined destination based on intrinsic data in the reply information.

As depicted in the illustrative, non-limiting embodiment shown in Figure 1 of the present application, print job data is generated by a host computer 1, and the print job data includes print data and reply information RD. The print job data is transmitted from the host computer 1 to the printer 11 which processes the print job data. Upon detecting reply information RD, the printer

11 returns a job processing state to the destination external to the printer and in accordance with the intrinsic data included in the reply information.

Also reply information RD is located at a predetermined location with respect to the print data. As shown in Figure 2(a), the reply information RD consists of a reply instruction RD1 and “job processing information” which includes: communication route information RD2, the document name RD3 and job processing state RD4. Specifically, the communication route information stores route information to a specific return destination such that the job processing state information may be returned to any desired destination. In other words, the host computer to which the job processing state information is returned is designated in the intrinsic data (e.g. the communication route information) of the reply information.

Fujita, on the other hand, clearly discloses transmitting a separate and independent inquiry command from a host computer 10 to a printer 20. The printer 20 returns a subsequent status response to the host computer 10 which transmitted the original inquiry command enabling that host computer 10 to know which page is under printing. In other words, Fujita simply returns page numbers to the host computer that initiated the inquiry command. Fujita does not teach or suggest locating intrinsic data within the reply information that indicates to which destination the job processing information should be sent.

Furthermore, as shown in Figure 18 of Fujita, the control information 100 simply contains print information and page number data. Absent from Fujita is any disclosure or suggestion of placing within the reply information the destination to which the job processing state information should be returned. As such, Fujita does not disclose, teach or suggest locating

intrinsic data within the reply information that indicates to which destination (or computer) the job processing state information should be sent.

B. The combination of Fujita and McCormick fails to render obvious independent claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that McCormick, like Fujita, fails to disclose, teach or suggest locating intrinsic data, within the reply information, that indicates to which destination (or computer) the job processing state information should be sent.

McCormick is directed to a computer system having a visual display which informs the user as to the status of an attached printer. The information displayed on the computer concerning the mechanical status of the printer includes: cover open, paper out, wrong paper load and paper jam. Absent from McCormick is any teaching or suggestion of locating intrinsic data within the reply information that indicates to which destination (or computer) the job processing state information should be sent.

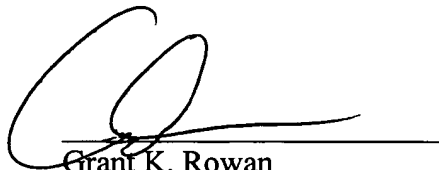
Without at least such a suggestion, one would not have been (and could not have been) motivated to combine the printer control, as taught in Fujita, with the printer status user interface, as disclosed in McCormick, to produce the claimed subject matter. Because there can be found in McCormick no teaching or suggestion that meets the above identified limitations, the combination of Fujita and McCormick cannot reasonably be said to render obvious the claimed subject matter. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the § 103(a) rejection from independent claim 1, 11, 20, 23 and 24 and the claims that depend therefrom.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/289,601

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

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Appendix

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A printer system including a host computer and a printer for receiving print data from the host computer, the printer system comprising:

print data generating means, contained in the host computer, for generating print data;

reply information issuance means for generating print job data, wherein the print job data comprises the print data and reply information, and wherein the reply information issuance means generates the print job data by locating the reply information at a predetermined position with respect to the print data, and wherein the print job data is transmitted to the printer;

print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer,

wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information;

print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing means; and

job processing state monitor means for monitoring a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from said print job data processing means.

10. (Amended) The print system as claimed in any of claims [1-9] 6 or 8-9 further including reply information detection means for detecting the reply information returned from said print data processing means and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor means.

11. (Twice Amended) A printer for printing based on input data[,] comprising:
reception means for receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;
print job data processing means for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer;
wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information; and
print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing means.

19. (Amended) The printer as claimed in any of claims [11 to 18] 11-16 or 18 wherein said reception means, said print data processing means, and said print control means can operate in parallel.

20. (Twice Amended) A recording medium recording a program for generating print data to be transmitted to a printer, said recording medium recording:

a print data generation function of generating print data based on an input document;
a reply information issuance function of issuing reply information at a predetermined position of print job data containing the print data; and

a job processing state monitor function of monitoring a process state of the print job data based on the reply information returned in a format that can be read and understood by a computer,

wherein the reply information includes intrinsically a predetermined destination and a reply instruction for replying said process state to said predetermined position.

23. (Once Amended) A printer system including a host computer and a printer comprising:

a first controller contained in the host computer, wherein the first controller generates print job data comprising print data and reply information located in the print job data at a predetermined position with respect to the print data, and transmits the print job data to the printer;

a second controller contained in the printer, wherein the second controller receives the print job data from the host computer, detects the reply information from the print job data, returns a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination included in the intrinsic data of said reply information, and controls printing based on the print data contained in the print job data; and

a monitoring processor, which is external to the printer, receives the reply information returned from the printer, and monitors a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from the printer.

24. (Once Amended) A recording medium containing a program to instruct a processor within a printer to perform a routine, comprising:

receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;

interpreting the print data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a process state of the print data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination external to the printer, wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information.; and

printing based on interpretation of said print data.